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TWENTY YEARS OF INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION IN AMERICA, 1938-1958.

The holding of the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities, from November 14 to 19, 1938, in the City of Havana, Cuba, culminated the effort which had been carried on through seventeen years by the Cuban newspaperman Ruy de Lugo Viña, elected Councilman of the City of Havana in the 1920 municipal elections, in defense of his ideals of intermunicipality which he expounded for the first time at the solemn session of the City Council of the Metropolitan City of Mexico, on November 3, 1921, the City Council of Havana having unanimously resolved on November 22, 1922 to accept that theory as its own "based on the fact that intermunicipality should be practised as one of the outstanding and effective needs of the life of municipal association and cooperation ..." 1)

When the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations approved in 1926 the report on International Municipal Cooperation which was submitted to it by the Secretariat in accord with the Resolution adopted by the Fifth Assembly on September 20, 1924, Lugo-Viña made this comment: "... it is more than what I had dreamed of for such a near future that day in the month of September 1922 in which I requested a simple declaration of principles, which four years later was to obtain the consecration of a universal approval, the basis of a full and absolute recognition in a future that we hope is very near". 2)

And it was not until 1928 when the VI International American Conference was held in Havana that the idea of inter American intermunicipality practically arose by the adoption of the resolution to the effect that "the Pan American Union organize and hold the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities", which it was not possible to hold until ten years later.

Destiny did not wish to allow Ruy de Lugo-Viña to see the success of his efforts and work inasmuch as he disappeared, a victim of the aviation crash which occurred in Cali, Colombia, on December 29, 1937 during the "Columbus Light House Flight", the delegation of which he was a member.

Nevertheless, the sincerity of purposes that moved him and his eloquence were heeded by men who, like himself, were convinced of the goodness of intermunicipal cooperation. And thus, during the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities Resolution No. 70 was approved creating the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation (Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal) (CPCI) with its permanent seat in Havana, because it was the city that had promoted the idea, and which had the great responsibility of defining and carrying forward the principles and practices of intermunicipal cooperation.

1) See "A Brief history of the inter-American movement of intermunicipal cooperation", by Carlos M. Morán. La Habana, Publications of the CPCI [1950]
2) See "La Intermunicipalidad Universal", Ruy de Lugo-Viña, Municipio de La Habana, 1938, p. 107.

One year later, in November 1939, on the invitation of the former Public Administration Clearing House, in the city of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., the "Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal" was organized at a meeting in which representatives from Argentine, Brazilian, Central American, Haitian, Mexican and American cities participated, under the presidency, as was stipulated in said Resolution No. 70, of the presiding officer of the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities and Mayor of Havana at that time, and also Cuban advisers, it being defined as "an organization for scientific administrative coordination, and is in no manner concerned with political issues. Its object is to study the solutions of problems affecting the activities of local organizations and the well-being of the inhabitants of cities and towns and to maintain and further intermunicipal cooperation."

Who were these men -some of them already gone along- who started in an effective manner the movement of intermunicipal cooperation in America? It is impossible to remember them all in this brief story; to name some of them would be to remain silent as to others. Let is suffice for us to know about their immense task of proselitizing and the achievements that have been made, palpable not only from the Minutes of the meetings of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities [3] but from the expositions, reports and papers presented at the several meetings and congresses of specialists to which the Organization has been invited to participate as a recognition of its work which as each day goes by further strengthens its prestige among the several international organizations, national, regional and private specialized organizations. And it is because in intermunicipality, as it has been interpreted by the Interamerican Municipal Organization (IMO), the desire of all civilized peoples is foremost: to live in an ambient of respect and citizen fraternity, founded on the material and spiritual welbeing which can be enjoyed only by a well organized community.

And after twenty years of hard struggle, at times full of hopes and with discouragement at others, according to cirsumstances but always stimulated by the inextinguishable faith of one who is convinced with a good cause, the permanent General Secretariat in the City of Havana, of the "Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal", the directive organ of the Interamerican Municipal Organization is pleased to announce the holding of the VII Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, from November 10 to 16, 1958, in the City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which is to be carried on under the following Agenda:

I. Municipal Finances:

a) Norms for a more equitable distribution of fiscal revenues among the various spheres of government. Grant-in-aid.
b) Norms for taking better advantage of local resources. New sources of revenue.
c) Norms for the coordination among the various government spheres concerning priorities of expenditures for carrying out public services. Definition of municipal responsibilities.
d) Planning for works. Long-term budgets. Financing of municipal works. Standardization of municipal budgets.

II. The Municipality as an effective unit for decentralized administration in achieving the several purposes of the State:

a) Structural organization for delegation of powers to permit responsible muni-

3) See "Carta de Recomendaciones del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios". Comp. y anotada por Blanca Rosa Sánchez. La Habana, Publicaciones de la C.P.C.I.,1954; and Final Acts of the following meetings.

cipal administration.

b) Methods for effective training of municipal administrative and technical personnel.

III. Municipal Public Services:

a) Determination of what public services should be undertaken by municipalities.
b) Urban needs and services as distinguished from government services for rural areas.
c) Methods for integrating urban needs into comprehensive regional planning.

The official rapporteurs appointed to act at this meeting are the following:

Subject I: Dr. Affonso Almiro, Secretary of the Technical Council of Economy and Finances, Rio de Janeiro, D.F.
Subject II: Dr. Nelson Omegna, Federal Deputy; ex-Minister of Labor, Industry and Commerce, Rio de Janeiro, D.F.
Subject III: Dr. Themistocles Brandão Cavalcanti, Professor of Public Law at the University of Brazil and President of the Public Law Institute of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, D.F.

At this VII meeting of the Congress -the same as in past meetings- the memory of Ruy de Lugo-Viña will be honored, but this time with a special event on November 14, the date of the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities in Havana. This will be a magnificent opportunity since the representatives of all the national municipal associations created in America under the orientation afforded by the Inter-American Municipal Organization will be there, besides professors, specialists, authorities, officials or persons interested in the municipal field, as well as observers from countries outside of this hemisphere and from international organizations.

Next November, the Municipality of Havana has planned to render homage to the memory of Ruy de Lugo-Viña by unveiling his picture at the Municipal Palace and publishing a compilation of his works. The permanent General Secretariat of the "Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal" in Havana is contributing to this commemoration with the greates homage that can be done to a man: by showing his dream converted into a reality.

We have consecrated ourselves to give practical and useful reality to your ideal, Ruy de Lugo-Viña. The goal that has been reached is in accord with your lofty spirit and great outlook, for the welfare and progress of the peoples of America.

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ARGENTINA. Office of municipal vinculations. Within the Directorate of Municipal Relations of the City of Buenos Aires this office has been created with the following functions:

a) The relations of the municipality with other municipalities and local organs of the nation and abroad for the interchange of allied information;
b) Permanent relations with international organizations that are devoted to the study of municipal problems and urbanization.
c) Centralization and orderly keeping of illustrative and informative material with regard to national and international congresses, assemblies or meetings

connected with this subject;

d) The receiving of papers and preparation of reports;
e) The formation of a collection of works and magazines on municipal subjects and on the City of Buenos Aires.

CUBA. First National Symposium of Natural Resources of Cuba. This was held in Havana from February 3 to 14, 1958 under the auspices of the National Economic Council and the collaboration of the Organization of American States through the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

As guests of honor to this First Symposium which attracted technicians from several countries, were: the Diplomatic Corps; the Ministers of the Government; the members of Congress and the directors of official quasi-state organizations.

The OAS brought in fifteen technicians as advisers of the Cuban experts, in the work of the Symposium in which around one hundred and twenty six papers were presented for discussion.

The subjects that were discussed are the following:

I. Geodesy and Topography.
II. Land Resources (soils and agriculture).
III. Forest Resources and Wildlife.
IV. Water Resources (hydrology, utilization and regulation water).
V. Mineral Resources (general geology, fuels and mining).
VI. Resources of the Sea (oceanography marine biology and fish industry).
VII. Energy Resources (thermal, atomic and others).
VIII. Industry.
IX. Transportation.
X. Tourism.
XI. Socio-economic Resources.

The purpose of this Symposium was "to present in panoramic form the current situation with respect to the discovery, evaluation, conservation, development and use of the natural resources of the Nation; and to evolve a national policy for future coordinated and integrated planning of resource survey and resource development activities."

Such complex and important matters cannot be solved in a given time wherefore it is hoped that this will be the first of a series of symposiums with the purpose of holding the next one within three years in order to reconsider and prepare new norms to be followed.

Together with this Symposium a Public Exposition on Natural Resources of Cuba was held at the Palace of Fine Arts, organized by the National Planning Board which contained the same divisions as the Symposium. All the sections were preceded by a group of panels wherein information was furnished regarding the general characteristics of Cuba, the geographical ambient, the climate, international position in economic and social affairs, etc. Each meeting included messages within the grasp of the visitors to the exposition in which the value of each natural resource was placed within the national economic picture, as well as the most advisable steps that are essential to be taken in order to go on with the investigations started in order to reach the proposed objectives.

GUATEMALA. From May 14 to 18, 1958, two municipal meetings were held in the City of Quezaltenango, the second in importance in the Republic. One of the National Mu-

nicipal Association of Guatemala, which was attended by nearly 600 delegates and at which interesting subjects were discussed, a series of recommendations and rules to be followed with regard to matters of real practical interest for the municipalities were discussed. When this meeting closed so many subjects had been discussed that its Final Act could not be completed and the same will be sent to the Secretariat of the Inter-American Municipal Organization for its files and so that we may then report to our readers regarding this meeting in more detail.

The other meeting was of an international nature. In Puerto Rico as well as in Panama during the Vth and VIth meetings of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities our General Secretary, Dr. Carlos M. Morán, insisted with some of the delegates from Central American municipalities on the need of endeavoring to organize a regional office of the IMO in Central America, including Panama therein. The idea was received with great interest by Mr. Miguel A. Ordoñez, ex-Mayor of Panama who was such in 1954 and by Engineer Julio E. Obiols, Mayor of Guatemala City, who has been able to do so.

With the attendance of delegates from the principal municipalities of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, the creation of the Central American Intermunicipal Cooperation Association was decided upon, its charter being approved in a solemn ceremony, the same being named in honor of the primitive indigenous name of the city that was the seat of the meeting "Xelajú Charter".

This meeting of Central American municipalities caused the delegates of the municipalities of Panama to be considered as Central Americans once again and that all the delegates by acclamation resolved to request the Government of Panama to seek admission to the Organization of Central-American States (ODECA), as well as to request all the Central American governments -by ratifying a resolution adopted by Central American mayors in 1920, at Antigua- to call a Central American Constituent Assembly which will make effective the union of Central America.

The "Xelajú Charter" contains a resolution requesting the IMO to recognize the Central American Intermunicipal Cooperation Association as its regional subsidiary for Central America.

In accord with the Statutes approved for this Association, its purposes are:

a) To advocate making municipal autonomy a reality in all the Central American countries;
b) The development of technico-administrative studies of the Central American municipality;
c) The scientific, cultural and ethical interchange that will achieve a better development of local problems, whether by means of written treatises or by specialized persons;
d) To coadyuvate with the scientific and economic means within the reach of each municipality to decide the problems of a general character of the Central American municipality;
e) To engage in convenient studies and recommend to the Central American Governments the result thereof in order to reach the improvement of the municipality;
f) Maintain and tighten the bonds of general sentiment toward Central American unity;
g) To do all those things that tend, in accord with the constitutional structure and legal make up of each of the individual Central American states, to bolster and strengthen of a decentralized municipality on fundamental bases.

The organs of the Association are: a) The General Assembly of Central American

municipalities;
b) the Board of Directors of the Association;
c) the Advisory Board; and
d) the General Secretariat. The Board of Directors is made up by the President, the General Secretary and the General Coordinator.

The Advisory Council shall be the technical and advisory organ of the Association and shall consist of two delegates, specialized in municipal matters, appointed by the Municipal Association of League of Municipalities of each country or by a Permanent Committee in charge of seeking and achieving the organization of these associations or leagues in those countries where they still do not exist, said Committee being made up from delegates of the municipalities of the countries that attended the meeting.

The General Coordinator is the personal delegate of the President of the Association; he shall acts at his request, in his temporary or definitive absence and shall have the duty of seeing to the unity of the different organs thereof and prepare, together with the President and General Secretary the Agenda of the local and international meetings that may be held.

The General Assembly shall meet every two years in one of the cities of Central America, it having been decided that San Salvador is to be the seat of the next Assembly, the District of Panama having been designate as the alternate seat, May 14, 1960 having been set as the date for the next Assembly.

For the support of the Central American Intermunicipal Cooperation Association and the adequate carrying on of its functions, the following minimum registration fees and annual dues have been set, to be paid in advance:

Cities of the 1st. category, according to revenue . . .	$25.00
" " " 2nd. " " " " . . .	10.00
" " " 3rd. " " " " . . .	5.00
" " " 4th. " " " " . . .	3.00
" " " 5th. " " " " . . .	1.00

Each municipality according to its economic capacity shall classify itself under the category that may be convenient.

The officers elected to govern the Association until the next Assembly were:

President: Dr. Alberto Fuentes Castillo, Mayor of Quezaltenango.
General Secretary: Ing. Julio E. Obiols, Mayor of the City of Guatemala.
Gral. Coordinator: Lic. Gilberto Recinos, 1st Councilman of the City of Quezaltenango.

Among the observers who attended these meetings, in addition to our General Secretary, were Dr. J. Guillermo Trabanino, General Secretary of ODECA and Mr. Jose Finat, Count of Mayalde, Mayor of Madrid who at the time was in Guatemala returning from his mission to Costa Rica as Special Envoy of the Spanish Government to the inauguration of the President of that Republic, the Hon. Dr. Mario Echandi.

Among the resolutions adopted by the First Meeting of Central American municipalities we will mention the following:

To adopt the same precedences decided upon by the ODECA for the carrying on of its protocolary and social activities.

To stand by and give all its support to the Republic of Guatemala in its just claims for the return of Belize to its territory.

To recommend to the Central American governments -who have not done so- to grant autonomy to the municipalities as an effective step toward the improvement of the Central American communities.

That the possibility that their congresses legislate in the sense that municipal officials be elected by the people be considered.

To support the steps taken by the municipalities tending to organize Municipal Development Banks for the better development of their work programs.

That the municipalities be given the opportunity to discuss projects to be undertaken, in the establishment of priorities, according to the degree of needs of each place, in the program for the economic development of each country and that the pertinent studies in each locality be made in collaboration with the municipal governments.

Finally, it was resolved to establish the "Day of Central American Rejoicing", May 14th, date of the creation of the Central American Intermunicipal Cooperation Association and the incorporation of Panama among the countries that form that jurisdictional limit.

HONDURAS. Múnicipal Regime. In the Constitution of the Republic published in the Gazette of the Republic of January 25, 1957, Title XIV appears dedicated to the Departamental and Municipal Regime.

Under this regime the Republic is divided into Departments the creation and limits of which will be established by the National Congress. The departamental officials shall be Hondurarian by birth, over 25 years of age and citizens in the exercise of their rights. Employees shall be over 18 years of age and shall have the same requisites as the officials.

The Constitution provides that the right of suffrage, which is compulsory for everyone, is had by Hondurarian men and women over 18 years of age.

Chapter II of this Title XIV regulates all matters regarding the municipal regime which in accord with said Constitution is the division of the Department that contains autonomous municipalities represented by municipal authorities elected by the people in the manner provided by law.

It is interesting to note that the Autonomous Municipal Bank is established as the basis of the economic autonomy of the municipal regime, the same being created by the Constitution, the organization and functions of which are to be provided by law.
However, the Central District, formed by the municipalities of Tegucigalpa and Comayajuela will be governed by a special law.

This Constitution naturally establishes only the fundamental principles of the regime and provided that the law shall regulate the organization and powers of the municipalities, which shall be only economic and administrative.

In the exercise of its own functions the municipalities shall be absolutely independent of the other powers without in any way conflicting with the general laws of the country, and shall be responsible for the abuses committed individually or collectively, before the Courts of Justice.

The municipalities shall freely appoint their employees and such police agents

as they pay for with their own funds.

The members of a municipality may not hold a municipal office therein during the next term of office, which shows that non-relection has been carried even into the municipalities.

It is interesting to find in this Constitution of Honduras the provision contained in Article IV regarding the State and its form of Government, which states that the alternability in the office of the Presidency of the Republic is obligatory and that the violation of this rule gives right to popular insurrection.

MEXICO. In Law No. 69, Organic of the Municipalities of the State of Campeche, approved by the XLII Constitutional Congress of that State and sanctioned by the Executive Power (the Constitutional Governor of the State) on July 3, 1957, the towns of the State are divided into seven categories:

Cities having less than 5,000 population
Towns " " " 1,500 "
Villages " " " 800 "
Publić lands, those said to be such by the Federal Executive.
Ranches, when having at least 200 population.
Farms (haciendas o ranchos) those not reaching 200 population.

The towns are to be divided into "Cuarteles" and the "Cuarteles" into blocks, both of which are to be numbered in progressive order.

The new towns that are set up in the State shall have as their legal area that which is sufficient to take care of the needs thereof and in accord with the map made for that purpose. In the center of said area shall be established the main plaza of the locality. The town will be divided into blocks, separated from one another by streets 15 meters wide, 3 meters of which shall be set aside for sidewalks. The blocks will be drawn in right angles with 100 meters along each side; shall be divided into lots, a certain number number being set aside for the construction of public buildings such as schools, markets, plazas, drives, cemeteries, and the balance will be divided among the residents who have no ground on which to build. The remaining lots will be sold at auction for the benefit of the municipal revenue.

In each of the "cuarteles" there shall be an administrative official who shall be known as "Inspector of the Cuartel" and in each of the blocks into which it has been divided there will be an administrative officer known as the Block Assistant. In small ranches that do not constitute towns, there will be an administrative officer known as the Municipal Agent.

---- Institute of Social Studies of Monterrey. Last December this Institute reached 10 years since its organization, and during that time it has done work worthy of great praise.

For those of us who have followed its work from afar through "Civitas", its organ of publicity, we are not unaware of the constant preoccupation and vigilant attitude of the Institute in behalf of the improvement of the administration of the City of Monterrey and of the State of Nuevo Leon.

Our greetings to the Institute and our stimulation so that it may not cease in the purpose in which it is engaged.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. National Planning Conference. From May 18 to 22 the Annual Conference of the American Society of Planning Officials was held in Washington, D.C., which was attended as a guest by the General Secretary of the IMO, Dr. Carlos M. Morán, which meeting was one of the most brilliant held to date.

More than ten sessions daily were separately held in order to be able to go thru the subjects on the Agenda and in each of them the most outstanding planning officials participated. The matters discussed were so many that it was decided that the results achieved from the study and discussion thereof would be published in a book to be entitled "Planning 1958".

Among the topics discussed Zoning was given special attention, as follows:

1. The A.B.C.'s of zoning.- 2. Zoning in large cities.-
3. Zoning in small cities and rural areas.
4. Preparing the zoning case:a)What principles and procedures should be followed by the city attorney in preparing a zoning case?
   b) What problems arise for the private attorney?
   c) What is the role of the planning staff?
5. Problems of rezoning. 6. The zoning administrator.

On Sunday the 18th, after the registration of the delegates, a meeting was held presided over by Mr. Dennis O'Harrow, President of the Committee of the United States of America related to the "International Federation of Housing and Town Planning" in order to take cognizance of international activities such as the congresses to be held at Liege and Puerto Rico in August 1958 and in May 1960, respectively; the VII Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, at Rio de Janeiro from November 10 to 16, 1958, and the II Meeting of the Inter-American Planning Society, at Lima, Peru, from the 18th to the 20th of the same month and year.

At the luncheon held on the 21st the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Dr. José A. Mora, spoke on "Urban development and economic growth: The new frontier in the Western Hemisphere".

One of the sessions in the afternoon of that same day 21 was dedicated to "Urban planning in Latin America", being Chairman Mr. Francis J. Violich, Chairman, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, and with the following program:

1) Urban design in Latin America, by Luis Vera, Division of Housing and Planning, OAS, Washington, D.C.
2) Metropolitan planning program in San Jose, by Eduardo Jenkins, Chief, Department of City Planning, Costa Rica National Institute of Housing and Planning.
3) Land controls and policies in urban areas, by Jorge E. Rivera, Division of Housing and Planning, OAS, Washington, D.C.
4) Zoning in Latin America, by Larry Reich, Chief, Comprehensive Planning Division, Philadelphia City Planning Commission.
5) Expanding role of the Inter-American Housing and Planning Center, by Eric Carlson, Director, CINVA, Bogotá, Colombia.

At the end of the session on suggestion of Mr. Eric Carlson, the Secretary General of IMO was invited to take the floor. After showing his recognition and appreciation Dr. Moran made a few remarks on the relevant reports from young technicians from Latin America and extended cordial invitation to those present to attend the VII Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities.

The session held on the night of May 19th, at the Pan American Union was very interesting. There the Brazilian architect Lucio Costa who has charge of the construction, as well as the experts from American organizations who handled the preparatory work of research and analysis, explained, with colored slides, the process followed in selecting the place and planning of the new capital of Brazil: Brasilia.

There was also a moving picture exhibition where three documentary films were shown: one showing an experimental shopping center at Springfield, Oregon, known as "Shoppers Paradise" in which traffic is handled in such a way that the visitor finds no difficulty whatever in moving around freely everywhere; another one "A Communications Primer" in which by means of animated symbols and objects the whole process, importance, magnitude and need of communications is explained, and "Millions on the move" made by "General Electric" regarding traffic, showing that we must return to mass movements by use of electric cars as the solution of the traffic problems in the large cities.

News from ASPA. According to information from the American Society for Public Administration two new university bureaus to aid state and local administration were inaugurated in Missouri and Arkansas recently and a third has been planned in the Miami, Florida area.

Similar to state and city university agencies in many other states, the new bureaus will consult with public officials about administrative and program problems and provide special short courses and conferences for public employees.

The Arkansas Bureau will emphasize city planning with one of its two divisions devoted to it. The University of Miami hopes to sell shares to surrounding units of government to finance its projected Institute of Public Administration. A share will allow the unit of government to send employees to courses taught at the Institute and will make them eligible for consulting and research services. (See Public Administration Bulletin, January 15, 1958, p. 5).

----The International Committee of the American Society for Public Administration observed in naming a committee on comparative administration that Americans can learn to improve their own government administration at the same time as they are working with foreign governments on improving theirs.

The committee, headed by Professor Rowland Egger of the University of Virginia -Technical Advisor of the First Meeting and Official Rapporteur of the III Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities; formerly an adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Bolivia- will plan methods of using the observations and experience of Americans studying and working with foreign governments in research aimed at better public administration at home. (See Public Administration Bulletin, March 30, 1958, p. 5).

News from the MFOA. The Municipal Finance Officers Association announces its 52nd Annual Conference from June 8-12, 1958 to be held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Topics to be considered are: Finance department organization; Debt administration today; Budget methods; Accounting; Public employee retirement: problems of administration and procedure; besides sectional meetings for small cities and towns, medium, and large cities and special districts,states, provinces and counties.

Mayor Frank P. Zeidler of Milwaukee, in extending its greetings on bejalf of the city to the members and guest of the MFOA of the United States and Canada said: "Today's modern municipality, if it desires to maintain adequate and efficient services to its citizenry, is faced with serious problems of finance. To those services which were long a part of local government have been added many new services -urban renewal, civil defense, expressways and others, each of which require great funds at a time when few, if any, new sources of revenue are provided the municipality. To public officials such as those in the Association, the municipalities must look for guidance

in resolution of these problems. If they are unsolved, local government will find its very existence threatened." (See Municipal Finance News Letter, March 16, 1958).

North Carolina broadens scope of driver education, according to information pulished in "Traffic News and Views" bulletin of the Association of Casualty and Surety Companies, New York City.

As a result of an unprecedented decision, the State of North Carolina is now providing an intensive, college-level driver education course (adapted to group needs) for every license examiner and every new highway patrolman. The concentrated 60-hour course -already being conducted on the campus of the University of North Carolina-is spread over 6 days, with classes held from Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4;45 p.m. Each evening, the students must participate in a 2-hour supervised study period. Students received both classroom and practice driving instruction. The classroom phase included such topics as: 1) The Place of the Motor Vehicle in Modern Life; 2) Causes of Traffic Accidents; 3) Physical and Mental Qualifications of the Driver; 4) Needs in Programming for Traffic Safety, and 5) Fundamental Driving Skills. In the practice driving phase, under the supervision of trained and experienced Driver Improvement Representatives and patrolmen, students were given the same type of experience that is generally provided in driver education teacher preparation courses.

A summary of the objectives of this unique application of educational methods is found in a statement made by Wallace Hyde, Chief of the Records and Driver Improvement Section of the State Department of Motor Vehicles: "For many years, it has been known that the solution to the traffic safety problem lies in a comprehensive approach -a combined application of Enforcement, Engineering and Education. There has been little effort, however, to provide traffic safety officials with a working knowledge of the broad aspects of the traffic safety problem. Much too often, it is painfully obvious that officials associated with some specific phase of traffic safety are not aware of the aims, objectives and activities of others who are attacking the problem. Enforcement personnel tend to see the solution through rigid enforcement of traffic laws; engineers emphasize the effectiveness of proper street use and highway design; and educators are throughly sold on formal instruction of school age youngsters. I feel that the action on the part of the Department of Motor Vehicles in North Carolina, whereby personnel of the Highway Patrol and Driver License Sections are required to complete an intensive course in driver education, is a step in the right direction. While it is not the complete and final answer, it does give everyone an opportunity to expand his knowledge of traffic safety. There is little reason to doubt that such training will result in increased efficiency on the part of Patrolmen and Driver License Examiner. And, since each year our traffic safety problem increases in volume and complexity, it is reasonable to believe that our future success will depend largely on the broadened knowledge and efficiency of well-trained personnel who work toward its solution."

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Inter-American Bar Association. The Xth Meeting of this Association took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 14 to 24, 1957.

Some of the declarations, recommendations and resolutions adopted were closely related with matters of municipal interest and are similars to those taken by the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities at its meetings. (See "Carta de Recomendaciones del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios" and Final Acts of its six meetings held up to now).

Among those recommendations we can mention No. 24, topic 1, referring to owners garantees in cases of condemnations of private property and No. 25, topic 4, relating to guarantees of municipal self-government.

The Committee on Municipal Law of the IABA was created during its III Meeting in Mexico City, on July 1944 on proposal of our Secretary General, Dr. Carlos M. Morán.